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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/526,093	02/23/2005	Pierre Dreyer	C000022727	6625

324 7590 12/28/2010

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EXAMINER

DELCOTTO, GREGORY R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1761

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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12/28/2010

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/526,093	Applicant(s) DREYER ET AL.	
	Examiner Gregory R. Del Cotto	Art Unit 1761	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on RCE filed 10/21/10.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4,9,14,16,24,28,30,31,33,35 and 40-50 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4,9,14,16,24,28,30,31,33,35 and 40-50 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1, 2, 4, 9, 14, 16, 24, 28, 30, 31, 33, 35, and 40-50 are pending. Claims 3, 5-8, 10-13, 15, 17-23, 25-27, 29, 32, 34, and 36-39 have been canceled. Note that, Applicant's amendments and arguments filed 10/21/10 have been entered.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 10/21/10 has been entered.

Objections/Rejections Withdrawn

The following objections/rejections set forth in the Office action mailed 6/21/10 have been withdrawn:

The rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 9, 14, 16, 24, 25, 28, 30, 31, 33, 35, and 40-50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kvita et al (US 6,291,412) in view of Willey et al (US 6,407,049), Kitko et al (US 2003/0232734), or Cottrell et al (US 4,299,717) has been withdrawn. Note that, as set forth below, Kvita et al (US 6,291,412) has been used alone in a rejection of the instant claims under 35 USC 103.

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Objections

Claims 16 and 35 are objected to because of the following informalities:

With respect to instant claims 16 and 35, these claims contain subject matter in parentheses throughout the claims which is not proper claim language. This claim language should be deleted.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 42 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The term "substantially" in claim 42 is a relative term which renders the claim indefinite. The term "substantially" is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention. Note that, the Examiner asserts that the instant specification provides no definition or guidance with respect to the term "substantially" homogeneous and in the absence of such a definition or guidance, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be able to determine the metes and bounds of the claimed invention. Clarification is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

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The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1, 2, 4, 9, 14, 16, 24, 25, 28, 30, 31, 33, 35, and 40-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kvita et al (US 6,291,412).

Kvita et al teach water-soluble granules of phthalocyanine compounds comprising from 2 to 50% by weight of a water-soluble phthalocyanine compound, from 10 to 95% by weight of an anionic dispersing agent, from 0 to 25% by weight of a water-soluble organic polymer, from 0 to 10% by weight of a further additive, and from 3 to 15% by weight of water. The granules are suitable especially as additives to washing agents for textile materials. See Abstract. Note that, Kvita et al teach phthalocyanine

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compounds having the same formula as recited by the instant claims. See column 1, line 40 to column 4, line 69. Suitable anionic dispersing agents include the condensation products of aromatic sulfonic acids and formaldehyde, etc. See column 10, line 50 to column 11, line 20. Suitable water-soluble polymers include gelatin, polyacrylates, etc. See column 11, lines 33-60. Note that, the Examiner asserts that polyacrylates as taught by Kvita et al would fall within the scope of "polyacrylic acid and salts thereof" which is part of the Markush group for "low-molecular weight organic acids and salts thereof" as recited by instant claim 1. Additional agents may also be used such as wetting agents, dyes, pigments, etc., in amounts from 0 to 10% by weight. The granules are produced, for example, in the following manner: first of all, an aqueous solution of the phthalocyanine dye is prepared, the anionic dispersing agent and, if desired, further additives are added thereto, and the mixture is stirred, where appropriate with heating, until a homogeneous solution is obtained. See column 11, line 30 to column 12, line 15.

Additionally, Kvita et al teach washing agent formulations containing 5 to 70% of an anionic surfactant and/or of a nonionic surfactant, from 5 to 50% of a builder substance, from 1 to 12% of a peroxide, and from 0.01 to 1% phthalocyanine granules. See column 13, lines 1-25.

Kvita et al do not teach, with sufficient specificity, granules containing a phthalocyanine compound, an anionic dispersing agent, an inorganic salt and/or a low molecular weight organic acid or salt thereof, water, and the other requisite components of the composition in the specific amounts as recited by the instant claims.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to formulate granules containing a phthalocyanine compound, an anionic dispersing agent, an inorganic salt and/or a low molecular weight organic acid or salt thereof, water, and the other requisite components of the composition in the specific amounts as recited by the instant claims and use these granules in further detergent compositions, with a reasonable expectation of success, because the broad teachings of Kvita et al suggest granules containing a phthalocyanine compound, an anionic dispersing agent, an inorganic salt and/or a low molecular weight organic acid or salt thereof, water, and the other requisite components of the composition in the specific amounts as recited by the instant claims and the use these granules in further detergent compositions.

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the “right to exclude” granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir.

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1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1, 2, 4, 9, 14, 16, 24, 28, 30, 31, 33, 35, and 40-50 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-13 of copending Application No. 11/919601. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because claims 1-13 of 11/919601 encompass the material limitations of the instant claims.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to formulate granules containing a phthalocyanine compound, an anionic dispersing agent, an inorganic salt and/or a low molecular weight organic acid or salt thereof, water, and the other requisite components of the composition in the specific amounts as recited by the instant claims and use these granules in further detergent

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compositions, with a reasonable expectation of success, because claims 1-13 of 11/919601 suggest granules containing a phthalocyanine compound, an anionic dispersing agent, an inorganic salt and/or a low molecular weight organic acid or salt thereof, water, and the other requisite components of the composition in the specific amounts as recited by the instant claims and the use these granules in further detergent compositions.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Response to Arguments

Note that, the Examiner asserts that Applicant's arguments are moot since the rejection of the instant claims under 35 USC 103 using Kvita et al in view of Willey et al (US 6,407,049), Kitko et al (US 2003/0232734), or Cottrell et al (US 4,299,717) has been withdrawn. However, a new rejection of the instant claims has been made under 35 USC 103 using Kvita et al (US 6,291,412) alone as set forth above. Additionally, as set forth above, the Examiner asserts that polyacrylates as taught by Kvita et al would fall within the scope of "polyacrylic acid and salts thereof" which is part of the Markush group for "low-molecular weight organic acids and salts thereof" as recited by instant claim 1. Furthermore, Kvita et al teach that the polymers such as polyacrylates may be used in amounts such as 25% by weight (See Abstract and column 11, lines 60-65 of Kvita et al) which would overlap with 25% by weight of the low-molecular weight organic acids and salts thereof as recited by instant claim 1. Thus, the Examiner asserts that

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the teachings of Kvita et al are sufficient to render the claimed invention obvious under 35 USC 103.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Remaining references cited but not relied upon are considered to be cumulative to or less pertinent than those relied upon or discussed above.

Applicant is reminded that any evidence to be presented in accordance with 37 CFR 1.131 or 1.132 should be submitted before final rejection in order to be considered timely.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gregory R. Del Cotto whose telephone number is (571) 272-1312. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. thru Fri. from 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Pyon can be reached on (571) 272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Gregory R. Del Cotto/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1796

/G. R. D./
December 20, 2010